repatriated to India with the active involvement of the Indian Embassy and coordination with Associations. The embassy's Consular Officers have been visiting the Immigration Detention Centre regularly to assist these Indian nationals. No report has been received of any ill treatment meted out to these persons who are temporarily detained along with nationals of other countries from South Asia and Europe.

Reports of US on Human Right Practices

7682. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 424 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th April, 1994 and state:

(a) whether US Government has published two reports on the human right practices for 1993;

(b) if so, whether in these two reports Pakistan has been put on a soft footing whereas India has been put in crime list;

(c) if so, whether Government have examined both the reports;

(d) whether these reports were discussed by the Indian Government with the visiting US Asstt. Secretary during April, 1994;

(e) if so, what was the reaction of the US officials;

(f) whether the Prime Minister discussed the issue of terrorist activities by Pakistan in India with US President during his recent visit; and

(g) if so, whether US President assured the Prime Minister that they will not indulge and will impress upon Pakistan not to create disorder in India and also settle the Kashmir question bilaterally under Shimla Agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The US State Department has published the Annual Country Report on Human Rights for 1993.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The Prime Minister and President Clinton promised to cooperate in the search for solutions to global challenges posed by international terrorism. The two leaders also agreed on the need for bilateral negotiations between India and Pakistan to resolve outstanding issues, including Jammu & Kashmir, as envisaged in the Shimla Agreement.

Protection of Sikhs from Racial Discrimination in U.K.

7683. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news item which appeared in the Asian Age, New Delhi on the 24th May, 1994 under the caption "Sikh Cabbies in UK protest symbol lean";

(b) is so, what is the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) what action Government have taken to protect the Sikhs from racial discrimination in UK?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter pertains to British nationals of Indian origin and to local licensing regulations, in terms of which wind screens and rear screens of taxis are required to remain clear of all objects. Display of the "Khanda" symbol or any other religious symbol is deemed by the local British authorities to come within the purview of these

regulations. Some of the affected taxi drivers have contested this and have approached the British Commission for Racial Equality for redressal.

As far as local licensing & regulations are concerned, this is the sole prerogative of the concerned British authorities.

Economic Relations with Republic of South Africa

7684. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to forge special economic relations with the Republic of South Africa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Trade and economic relations were resumed with South Africa in October, 1993. With the formation of a new multi-racial, democratic Government in South Africa, there is considerable interest among Indian business and trading circles to forge close economic links with that country. There is a strong potential for bilateral economic cooperation particularly in the fields of small scale industries, low-cost housing, technical training and pharmaceuticals.

US Ambassador's Threat to India on "Prithvi" Missile

7685. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Frank Wisner, the U.S. Ambassador-designate to India has threatened India that induction of missile "Prithvi" will leave worse results; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard stating the clear stand of the Government on Missile programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) In response to a question during the course of his confirmation hearings before the Near East and South Asia Sub-Committee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, US Ambassador-designate to India Mr. Frank Wisner stated that Prithvi was an indigenously produced missile of short range which was not, so far as he knew, configured for nuclear warhead. Wisner added that the US position was that India should consider the consequences of missile deployments when tensions were already high. He said that the Prithvi had not yet been deployed and hoped that Government of India would not undertake deployment.

The US State Department issued a clarification on 31 May, 1994 that Ambassador Wisner was reiterating the long-standing position of the United States which had been addressed in bilateral consultations with both India and Pakistan.

(b) Government remain committed to a policy of determining the course of India's missile programme on the basis of India's national security requirements.

US Efforts to Supply F-16 Planes to Pakistan

7686. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether US efforts to find a way to supply F-16 planes to Pakistan has again put pressure on Indian defence system;